

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in view of the above-referenced Office Action, and reconsideration is requested in view of the following remarks.

Regarding the Drawings

The drawings were objected to due to multiple numbers being used for two operations. The drawings have been amended by changing 564 to 516 and 572 to 540 in Fig. 9B. Additionally, the specification has been amended to be consistent with this drawing change. A replacement sheet containing Fig. 9B along with a markup showing the changes are included as a part of this response. Acceptance of this drawing change and amendment is respectfully requested.

Regarding the Title

The Examiner has required a new title and the present amendment complies with this requirement. The undersigned hopes that the Examiner will consider the new title to be more suitable. However, this amendment and the title are not intended to bear on the interpretation of any claim.

Regarding the Specification

The specification has been amended to correct the minor defects noted by the Examiner in section 4 of the Office Action.

Regarding the Claim Objections

Claims 2-4, 7-14, 17-20, 23-24 and 27-29 were objected to for failure to insert the word "slot" in the preamble of each claim after "time". The uncanceled claims have been amended to add the word "slot" and hence the reason for the objection has been removed. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Claim 19 was indicated to be objected to but allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant appreciates the Examiner's indication that this claim is allowable. Claim 16 has been amended to incorporate all of the features of claims 18 and 19. Hence, amended claim 16 is now of identical scope as that of allowed claim 19 and is submitted to be allowable since it is now written in independent form. Claims 18 and 19 have been cancelled. Allowance of claim 19 is hence appropriate and respectfully requested.

Regarding the Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claim 12 was rejected due to an error in dependency. The Examiner correctly interpreted Applicant's intent, and claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 11 rather than claim 6. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Regarding all Prior Art Rejections

As noted above, independent claim 16 has been rewritten to incorporate all of the features of claim 19. Hence claim 16 is believed clearly allowable. Claims 1-6, 8, 10, 15, 18-19 and 22-30 have been cancelled without prejudice. All remaining dependent claims have been amended to depend from claim 16. Hence, all remaining claims are clearly allowable. Reconsideration and allowance at an early date are respectfully requested.

Interview Request

In view of this communication, all claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested at an early date. If further matters remain to be resolved, the undersigned respectfully requests the courtesy of an interview. The undersigned can be reached at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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Application No.: 10/616,344

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FIG. 9B

